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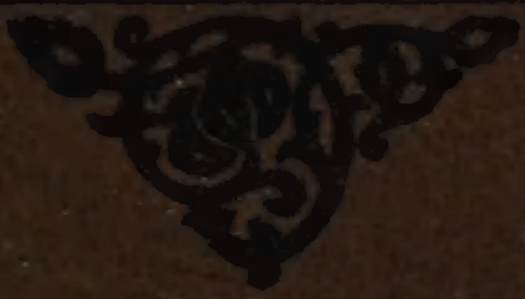

FIFTH EDITION

BY

v. J. Moyer Hershey
A. M. B. D.
PASTOR OF THE
ZION CHURCH
OF THE
nited Brethren in Christ
MYERSTOWN, PA.

THE OTTERBEIN PRESS DAYTON OHIO

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FOREWORD

The conviction has grown upon me for a long time that the converts of our churches are received into full membership before they have been suitably instructed as to their vows and obligations. To accept Christ is one thing, but to follow Christ is another. However important it is to win men, it is of far greater importance thoroughly to confirm them in their faith, that they may be enabled to follow Christ with joy and serve Him well, regularly and always in the church, or wherever they are. It is very painful to me to learn of so many making shipwreck of their faith. The percentage of those joining church and soon dropping out, is entirely too large. It is the church's duty properly to instruct converts, for they fall away, not so much because they want to, but because they do not know or appreciate what the church really is to them.

These fifteen lessons were written with a view that converts may be confirmed in their faith in God, in Jesus Christ, in the church He instituted, in their regenerate experience; and may be taught the efficacy of the prayer life, their duties to God in worship, in giving, and in a genuine life of service in behalf of others. Every person joining the church should perceive clearly the meaning of membership, appreciate the government of the church he joins, and understand fully the minister's relation to the church and his relation to the minister, as head of the church.

In the revision of these studies, I am indebted greatly to Rev. A. W. Drury, D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology, Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, Rev. J. I. L. Ressler, D.D., Johnstown, Pa., Rev. H. F. Rhoad, A.M., Harrisburg, Pa., Rev. N. L. Linebaugh, A.M., B.D., Dayton, O., Rev. A. G. Nye, Elizabethtown, Pa., and other of the brethren who used these studies in the training of their converts.

I aimed in the preparation of these studies not so much at the intellectual, but rather to secure a spiritual understanding in order to a spiritual service. It is my sincerest wish that all who teach and study will transmute the intelligence of these studies into spiritual life and service for the promotion of the church and the glory of Christ.

I. M. H.

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A Short Catechism

Lesson I.—God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Sin.

1. Who is God?

ANS.—*God is our creator, and Heavenly Father, and the Supreme object of our worship.*

Gen. 1: 1—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Ex. 20: 3—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

2. What worship is acceptable to Him?

ANS.—*An acceptable worship must be in spirit and truth.*

Jno. 4: 24—"God is a spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

3. Name one way by which God reveals himself.

ANS.—*By Jesus Christ.*

John 14: 6-10—"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him . . . . , He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; . . . . Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

4. Who is Jesus Christ?

ANS.—*Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Saviour of tthe world.*

Luke 1: 35—"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Matt. 1: 21—"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins."

5. How are we saved from sin through Him?

ANS.—*We are saved by believing in Him and repenting of our sins.*

Acts 16: 31—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thine house."

John 3: 36—"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Luke 15: 18—"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."

Isa. 55: 7—"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

6. Who represents Christ in the world?

ANS.—*The Holy Spirit.*

John 14: 16, 17—"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." And . . . he shall testify of me." (John 15: 26.)

7. Who is the Holy Spirit?

ANS.—*The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from God the Father, and sent by his Son Jesus Christ.*

John 15: 26—"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

8. What is his mission?

ANS.—*The Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and guides us into all truth.*

John 16: 8-11, 13—"But when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come."

9. Why was it necessary to make such a gracious provision for mankind?

ANS.—*All have sinned and need salvation.*

Rom. 3: 23—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

I John 1: 8-10—"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

10. What is sin?

ANS.—*Sin is disobeying God's will.*

I John 3: 4—"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law."

Jas. 4: 17—"To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

11. What are the consequences of sin?

ANS.—*Sin brings sorrow, suffering, disappointment, pain and death in this life, and also in the world to come.*

Rom. 6: 23—"For the wages of sin is death."

Col. 3: 25—"But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done; and there is no respect of persons."

Lesson II.—The Church

1. What is the Church?

ANS.—*The institution for the salvation of men, founded by Jesus Christ through his Apostles.*

2. Of what is it composed?

ANS.—*The church is composed of the body of believers who confess that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Matt. 16: 16-18—"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him: Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

3. What is the purpose of the church?

ANS.—*The purpose of the church is to establish believers in the faith of Christ, and to save lost men.*

Eph. 4: 11-13—"And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Luke 19: 10—"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

4. In how many forms does it consist?

ANS.—*Two. The visible and the invisible*

5. What is the visible church?

ANS.—*The visible church is the body of believers on the earth in which the Word of God is taught, the Sacraments administered, and an order of worship maintained.*

6. What is the invisible church?

ANS.—*The invisible church is the body of God's true believers on the earth, and also those in heaven gathered through all ages, from all peoples and nations.*

7. Can the salvation of men be promoted successfully aside from organization?

ANS.—*It is the Lord's will that his followers should unite themselves together in doing his will.*

Matt. 16: 19—"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matt. 18: 19, 20—"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

8. What are the different church organizations called?

ANS.—*Denominations.*

9. What one should we join?

ANS.—*Unite with the one of your choice and ever be faithful to all her interests.*

10. What is necessary to join the church?

ANS.—*It is necessary to be born anew, a child of God.*

John 3: 3—"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

11. Should every Christian unite with some church?

ANS.—*Every Christian should unite with some church, for he cannot otherwise perform his Christian duties properly.*

Lesson III.—The Bible

1. What is the Bible?

ANS.—*The Word of God sent to man.*

2. How was it given?

ANS.—*It was written by holy men inspired of God through the Holy Spirit.*

II Peter 1: 21—"For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit."

3. Name its divisions.

ANS.—*The Old and New Testaments.*

4. How many books in each?

ANS.—*39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New.*

5. How are they classified?

ANS.—*The Old Testament is classified, Books of the Law, 5; Historical Books, 12; Poetical Books, 5; Major Prophets, 5; Minor Prophets, 12.*

The New Testament is classified, Biographical Books, 4; Historical Book, 1; Pauline Epistles, 13; General Epistles, 8; Prophetical Book, 1.

(Note—Teacher should teach the names of books in each group.)

Gen. Ex. Lev. Nu. Deut. 11
Josh. Jud. Ruth. I, II. Sam.
Kin. I, II. Chr. Ezr. Neh. Est.
Job, Ps. Prov. Ecc. Cant.

I. Mt. Mk. Lu. Jno.
II Acts
III. Ro. Cor. Gal. Ep. Phil. Col. T
Tim. Ti. Philem.
IV. Hb. Ja. Pet. Jno. Jude
V. Rev.

6. How many authors?

ANS.—*About 36 who wrote during a period of 16 centuries.*

7. What is the purpose of the Bible?

ANS.—*To teach man sin, righteousness, and about the world to come, so that, in every relationship of life, we may be furnished completely for living and service by appropriating what God gave us thru the Redemption of his Son Jesus Christ.*

II Tim. 3: 16, 17—"Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." Also Heb. 4: 12.

8. What should be our attitude toward it?

ANS.—*Absolute faith in, and obedience to, its teaching. Our failure to understand must not be an occasion to doubt, but an incentive to study it.*

I Peter 1: 22, 23—"Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently: having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Also John 14: 21-24.

9. Is Bible study to be encouraged?

ANS.—*Certainly. Use every privilege,—the Quiet Hour, daily readings, Bible classes, Bible School, etc.*

Isa. 40: 31—"They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

10. Why is this important?

ANS.—*Our spiritual life to be maintained must be nourished and fostered daily, even as our physical well-being receives daily care.*

Acts 17: 11—"Now these are more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so."

11. Should we memorize Scripture?

ANS.—*By all means. In doing so we are enlightened to do God's will, and are guarded against sin and Satan.*

Psa. 119: 11—"Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Jos. 1: 8—"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Also Matt. 4: 1-11.

Lesson IV.—Doctrine

1. What is Depravity?

ANS.—*A state or principle of sin in which we were born, by which we do particular acts of sin.*

Psa. 51: 1—"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Rom. 3: 23—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

(Read also Rom. 7: 18-20; Psalm 51.)

2. What is Repentance?

ANS.—*A godly sorrow for sin which leads a person to cease doing acts of sin.*

II Cor. 7: 10—"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

3. What is Justification?

ANS.—*Justification is the forgiveness of our sin thru the merits of Jesus Christ.*

Rom. 5: 1—"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Rom. 4: 25—"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Acts 13: 39—"And by him all that believe are justified from all things; from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

4. What is Regeneration?

ANS.—*Regeneration is our being born anew by the Holy Spirit, with a holy impulse to be and to do good.*

John 3: 7—"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Titus 3: 5—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

5. What is Adoption?

ANS.—*Adoption is our admission as children of God, into the family of God.*

Rom. 8: 17—"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Gal. 4: 7—"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

6. What is Santification?

ANS.—*Sanctification is the holiness of the heart and life by the Spirit of Christ.*

II Thess. 2: 13—"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth."

I Peter 1: 15, 16—"But as he which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

7. What is Assurance?

ANS.—*Assurance is the individual knowing that he is saved.*

I John 3: 14—"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

John 1: 12—"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Rom. 8: 16—"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

Lesson V.—The Sacraments

1. What are the Sacraments?

ANS.—*Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*

2. What is Baptism?

ANS.—*Baptism is the application of water, used by immersion, pouring or sprinkling, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to represent a work of grace in the heart thru Christ.*

3. Who are to be baptized?

ANS.—*All believers. Children also may be baptized as an act of consecration at the desire of their parents.*

Matt. 28: 19—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2: 38—"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

4. What is the Lord's Supper?

ANS.—*The Lord's Supper is that Sacrament in which bread and wine are used as symbols of the body and blood of Christ, and are to be partaken of in memory of his suffering and death.*

I Cor. 11: 23-26—"For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

"After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he comes."

Luke 22: 19, 20—"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying. This is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

5. Who shall partake of the Lord's Supper?

ANS.—*All believers.*

6. How often?

ANS.—*As often as regularly appointed by the local church.*

7. What fitness is required?

ANS.—*The communicant must come by faith, prayerful, and reverent, and penitently confessing his sins.*

Lesson VI.—The Commandments

1. How many commandments are there?

ANS.—*Ten.* (*Memorize them.*)

Ex. 20: 3-17:

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them or serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me; and keep my commandments.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

6. "Thou shalt not kill."

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. "Thou shalt not steal.

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

10. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."

2. Toward whom are the duties of the first four?

ANS.—*Toward God.*

3. Toward whom are the duties of the remaining six?

ANS.—*Toward our fellowmen.*

4. What do these two lines of duty teach us?

ANS.—*That we cannot live a righteous life unless we are true to God and our fellowmen, unless we love God by manifesting his love toward our fellowmen.*

I John 4: 20, 21—"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, loveth his brother also."

5. What does the Saviour say about these commandments?

ANS.—*He sums them up in two commandments as follows*

Matt. 22: 37-40—"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

6. What is the Golden Rule?

ANS.—*Matt. 7:12.—"Therefore all things, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."*

7. How are the commandments of God related with Christian living?

ANS.—*They must be obeyed, for in no other way can we serve him.*

John 14: 15—"If ye love me keep my commandments."

I John 2: 4, 5—"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

Lesson VII.—Prayer

1. What is the Christian's only means of approach to God?

ANS.—*Prayer.*

2. What is Prayer?

ANS.—*Prayer is the offering up of our soul's desire to God for things agreeable to his will.*

3. Why do men pray?

ANS.—*It is constitutional. It is as natural for us to pray as a young deer to seek water when thirsty.*

Psalm 42: 1—"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

Psalm 84: 2—"My soul longeth, yea even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

John 12: 27, 28—"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour; but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

4. What incentive is there to pray?

ANS.—*God answers prayer.*

Matt. 7: 7, 8—"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findetth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

John 14: 13, 14—"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

I John 5: 14, 15—"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hears us, Whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

5. What is the Model prayer?

ANS.—*The Lord's Prayer.* (*Memorize it*).

Matt. 6: 9-13—"Our Father, which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

6. What belongs to true prayer?

ANS.—*Adoration.*

John 12: 27, 28—"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

Thanksgiving.

Phil. 4: 6—"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God."

Confession.

Psa. 51: 3, 4—"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speaketh and be clear when thou judgest."

Petition.

Matt. 6: 11—"Give us this day our daily bread."

Intercession.

I Tim. 2: 1—"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."

Lesson VIII.—Church Duties—Worship

1. What is the first Church duty?

ANS.—*To worship God in His Sanctuary at the various church services.*

2. Why is this so urgent?

ANS.—*Every Christian joining a church erects an altar there for himself where he promises to meet God.*

3. What place does the preaching of the Word hold?

ANS.—*Pre-eminently the first place.*

4. Why?

ANS.—*God willed it so.*

Matt. 16: 16-18—"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Gal. 6: 6—"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

Also Eph. 4: 11-13.

5. Will any difficultties you may have or even the sins of others excuse you from worshipping God regularly?

ANS.—*Certainly not.*

Phil. 2: 14, 15—"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

Matt. 23: 3—"All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do ye not after their works: for they say; and do not."

6. Why is Sunday School attendance necessary?

ANS.—*The Sunday School is the church engaged in the study of the Bible whereby each member may attain an intelligent understanding of the Book by which he lives.*

7. What other means of grace are there?

ANS.—*The prayer meeting, and the meetings of the Endeavor societies, Brotherhoods, Missionary societies, and other appointed meetings.*

Lesson IX.—Church Duties—Giving

1. Why is giving to the church a duty?

ANS.—*The Lord commands it.*

II Cor. 8: 7—"Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

Prov. 3: 9, 10—"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

2. How shall we give?

ANS.—*Every member of the church shall give regularly, proportionately, bountifully, and cheerfully.*

I Cor. 16: 2—"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

II Cor. 9: 6-8—"But I say this, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

3. What is the minimum?

ANS.—*One-tenth.*

Lev. 27: 30, 32—"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord. . . . And concerning the tithe of the Lord, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord."

Matt. 5: 17—"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

(See also Deut. 14: 22-27.)

4. What sin is committed by those who refuse to give the tithe?

ANS.—*They rob God.*

Mal. 3: 8—"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

5. What is the result?

ANS.—*They are cursed with a curse.*

Mal. 3: 9—"Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

6. What promise is there for those who give the Lord his own?

ANS.—*They shall be blessed abundantly.*

Mal. 3: 10—"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

II Cor. 9: 8-11—"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound, to every good work. (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth forever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both ministereth bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causes through us thanksgiving to God."

7. What are the different financial claims of the church?

ANS.—*Local church expense, such as pastor's salary, the building and care of churches, and general church interests, such as missions, Sunday Schools, education, and others that may be named.*

8. Is giving a means of grace?

ANS.—*Giving is a means of grace, just as much so as the study of the Word or prayer.*

II Cor. 8: 7—"Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

Lesson X.—Church Duties—The Poor

1. Is any member of the church too poor to give?

ANS.—*No. Whatever grace and prosperity may abound, the Lord must not be disowned.*

2. If our need requires all of our income, what then?

ANS.—*The Lord must have his own, and whatever need remains, it is the duty of the church to supply.*

Rom. 15: 26, 27—"For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things."

(See also II Cor. 8: 1-5.)

3. What promise is there for the poor?

ANS.—*The Lord promises to supply every need.*

Psa. 132: 15—"I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread."

Psa. 37: 25—"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."

Phil. 4: 19—"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

(See also I Kings 17: 8-16.)

4. What do the Scriptures teach with reference to the care of the poor?

ANS.—1.—*The poor are always with us.*

Mark 14: 7—"For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good; but me ye have not always."

ANS.—2.—*Their giving is approved of God.*

Mark 12: 42, 43—"And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury."

ANS.—3.—*Their needs are to be supplied.*

I John 3: 17—"But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him."

Jas. 2: 15, 16—"If a brother or a sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit?"

5. What do the Scriptures teach with reference to the church performing her duty?

ANS.—*The duty of the church as related to the care of the poor or any other duty, is performed both in the keeping and doing what the Scriptures require.*

John 14: 15—"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Jas. 1: 22—"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Lesson XI—Membership

1. How may a person become a member of the church of the United Brethren in Christ?

ANS.—*Members are received upon their Confession of Faith, as expressed in the five significant questions to which they assent publicly, as solemn vows to God and sacred pledges to the church. Also by letter or certificate of membership from another denomination.*

(See Discipline, page 19, 1921 Edition.)

2. Are children to be received as members?

ANS.—*Pastors are authorized to enroll children under the watch care of the church and instruct them; and when parents so desire, to receive those into full membership who publicly confess Christ as their Saviour.*

3. In what ways may membership cease?

ANS.—*By withdrawal, by dismissal or death.*

4. How is a member transferred from one charge to another?

ANS.—*A certificate of transfer is issued by the class or official board of the local church of which he is a member, signed by the pastor, and forwarded by him to the pastor of the charge to which the member receiving the certificate shall remove.*

5. What value should we place on church membership?

ANS.—*We should regard church membership as indispensable to the deepest development of our life in Christ, and assume it as His divinely appointed means for Christian service.*

Heb. 10: 25—"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Eph. 4: 16—"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Lesson XII.—Government

1. What constitutes the organization of each local church?

ANS.—*The official board consisting of the pastor, local preachers, deaconesses, church clerk, class leader, stewards, church and parsonage trustees, church treasurer, superintendent of Sunday School, presidents and treasurers of the various organizations and secretaries of Brotherhoods.*

2. What are the three governing bodies of the church?

ANS.—*The quarterly conference, the annual conference and the general conference.*

3. What is the Quarterly Conference?

ANS.—*The quarterly conference, the official board members comprising its membership, is the governing body of the local church.*

4. What is its function?

ANS.—*It ratifies the proceedings of the official board, licenses preachers, performs such other duties as pertain to the local church and annual conference. Its meetings are held as appointed by the conference superintendent, who also presides.*

5. What is the Annual Conference?

Ans.—The annual conference consists of all elders, duly received licentiates, and one layman from each charge within a fixed territory of the church. It meets each year and is presided over by a bishop.

6. What does the Annual Conference do?

Ans.—The annual conference passes upon the character of each minister, receives candidates for the ministry, reviews every phase of work done during the year, plans for future work, and makes the appointments of ministers to their respective charges for the ensuing year.

7. What is the General Conference?

Ans.—The general conference is composed of a like number of both ministerial and lay delegates, elected by the membership of the church. It meets every fourth year.

8. What is its function?

Ans.—The general conference reviews the work of the bishops, general officers, secretaries and members of boards, elects the Bishops, general officers, secretaries and members of boards. It also makes the laws of the church.

Lesson XIII.—The Ministry

1. What is a minister?

Ans.—A minister is one who is called of God to preach the Gospel, and solemnly ordained by the church to perform faithfully the work of the ministry.

2. What are his essential duties?

Ans.—To preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, solemnize marriages, make himself a worthy example of Jesus Christ, shepherd his flock wisely, and save the lost.

3. What is the order of preachers in the church?

ANS.—*Lay preachers, quarterly conference and annual conference preachers.*

4. How are Annual Conference preachers classified?

ANS.—*They are classified as follows: Elders, licentiates, itinerants, and local preachers.*

5. What are Itinerant preachers?

ANS.—*Annual conference preachers, either elders or licentiates, who without reserve, after having labored two years under the direction of the stationing committee of conference superintendent shall by a two-third vote of the members be recognized as itinerants.*

6. What are Local preachers?

ANS.—*Local preachers are those who have been granted local relations.*

7. What is the official rank of preachers?

ANS.—*The Bishop who is the head of a district; the conference superintendent who is the head of an annual conference, and the pastor who is the head of a local church.*

8. Name other phases of church work in which preachers are employed.

ANS.—*Preachers are elected to fill General church offices, Presidents of colleges, etc.*

9. What is our duty toward preachers?

ANS.—*Preachers should be respected as men called of God, be recognized as the leaders of the church, and co-operated with in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.*

10. What does our rejection of men called of God mean?

ANS.—*We reject and disown Jesus Christ.*

Luke 10: 16—"He that hearth you, heareth me; and he that rejecteth you rejecteth me, and he that rejecteth me rejecteth him that sent me." Also Heb. 13: 7, 17.

Lesson XIV.—Church Literature

1. What do we mean by a church literature?

ANS.—*The church literature consists of different kinds of weekly papers, magazines, leaflets, and books to aid in carrying on the work of the church.*

2. What does this literature seek to do?

ANS.—*It seeks to aid the respective departments of church work.*

3. Name the departments.

ANS.—*The church is general, Sunday School, Young People's and Brotherhood work, Home and Foreign Missions, Christian Stewardship, Education, Church Erection, and Annual Conference.*

4. What is the main church paper?

ANS.—*Religious Telescope.*

5. Name some of the Sunday School Literature.

ANS.—*The Lesson Quarterlies, Otterbein Teacher, Our Bible Lesson Pictures and Cards for Little ones, and the International Graded Series of Sunday School Lessons.*

6. What papers for Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and Missions?

ANS.—*The Watchword and the Evangel.*

7. Should church members read other religious publications?

ANS.—*Those which represents church movements as the Sunday School Times, Christian Endeavor World, and Missionary Review, should be read.*

8. What constitute the literature for Mission Study in the church?

ANS.—*There are many books, pamphlets and helps published on this subject.*

9. Why is the work of missions so important?

ANS.—*Mission work is God's agency whereby the whole church shall give the Gospel to the whole world.*

10. What depends upon it?

ANS.—*The church's greatest success and spiritual attainment.*

11. Does the Christian Stewardship form a literature for the church?

ANS.—*Many books and tracts are now being written to educate the church in proper giving. Each local church shall elect a chairman of stewardship.*

12. Does Education supply a literature?

ANS.—*There is a department of Education with its own literature.*

Lesson XV.—Additional Church Duties

1. Should we regard family worship as a Christian duty?

ANS.—*Every Christian, and especially families should read the Word, sing and pray each day as a defense against daily temptations.*

2. How shall we observe the Sabbath?

ANS.—*Every one shall keep the Sabbath day holy, a day of rest and worship. There shall be a cessation of all labor, except what is absolutely necessary; and the day spent in worship, in the study and reading of the Word, and holy meditation.*

3. What additional claims on Christians are there aside from the ones already mentioned?

ANS.—*The support of Temperance as represented in the Anti-Saloon League, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and other temperance societies; and of the Bible cause, Hospitals, Social and Moral Reform.*

4. What is the character of these agencies?

ANS.—*They are agencies which affiliate with church organizations to bless humanity.*

5. What should be our attitude toward them?

ANS.—*They should have our support in such ways as are possible.*

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